

journey in the advancement of the English colonies in North America to the present day status of the United States of America throughout the world. To this day, Hunterdon County maintains its natural beauty and rural charm, as has been the case throughout its history.

The county is proud to be named for Robert Hunter, the distinguished royal governor of New York and New Jersey who sailed to America with 3,000 Palatine German refugees in 1710. They, and thousands of others like them, yearned for religious freedom and a better life for themselves and their descendants. Hunterdon County was formed when it separated from Burlington County 300 years ago this month, in March of 1714.

From the first reading of the Declaration of Independence on the steps of what was then the Hunterdon County Courthouse in Trenton to General Washington's historic Delaware River crossing and decisive victory at the Battle of Trenton, Hunterdon's link to the 1776 birth of the United States is significant. I was personally inspired as a child by the tales of Captain Daniel Bray and the Hunterdon County militia who collected the boats on our western border that were used in Washington's crossing on Christmas night in that fateful year of our Nation's birth. The county boasts several sites associated with the Revolution, including the 1759 Vought House in Clinton Township, a Loyalist homestead that still exists with its architecturally distinguished serpentine ceiling.

The county is also proud of its agricultural heritage. The county seal originally included a hay wagon and now features a bountiful sheaf of wheat. Farming was the story of most county residents, from Native Americans through the earliest colonial settlers to those who lived at the beginning of the 20th century. Many barns dot the county landscape, and this heritage is celebrated annually at the Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair.

A century and a half ago general stores and hotels, including several owned by my ancestors, were common in the towns that sprouted across the 400 square acres of the county. From Clinton in the north to Lambertville in the south, to Frenchtown in the west, to Flemington, the county seat, in the middle, they were the centers of life where Hunterdon families came to market, to socialize, and to worship.

The nature of Hunterdon has changed as the population increased from the mid-20th century forward. The large agricultural townships have become more heavily populated as farmland has been transformed to houses for new residents, who demanded improvements, including establishment of a system of regional schools and construction of the Hunterdon County Medical Center. After World War II, Hunterdon was the only county in the State still without a hospital. County

leaders, including the Board of Agriculture, were responsible for the building of the medical center that opened in 1953. Since then, this health care facility has become one of the premier medical institutions in New Jersey. Public-spirited men and women created five distinguished regional high schools that would become leaders in the State in academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities.

The 300-year history of Hunterdon County has been captured in writings, photographs, and memories telling the compelling story of its sheer natural beauty, its people, and the larger community of churches, nonprofit groups, and civic organizations, with neighbor helping neighbor.

Our ancestor have striven for 300 years to make Hunterdon what it is today, a 21st century exemplar of the United States as a whole: free, self-governed, prosperous, and dedicated to the advancement of the Nation. We, the 130,000 current residents, have a responsibility to those who will come after us to preserve and improve the county we love.

Truly, Hunterdon County has always been and will always be in my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WENSTRUP (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a death in the family.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 25, 2014, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 3771. To accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

H.R. 2019. To eliminate taxpayer financing of political party conventions and reprogram savings to provide for a 10-year pediatric research initiative through the Common Fund administered by the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 28, 2014, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5100. A letter from the Vice President, Government Affairs and Corporate Communica-

tions, AMTRAK, transmitting a letter regarding the general and legislative annual report; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5101. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take Off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30943; Amdt. No. 3577] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5102. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30944; Amdt. No. 3578] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5103. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Stage 3 Helicopter Noise Certification Standards [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0948; Amdt. No. 36-29] (RIN: 2120-AJ96) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5104. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30942; Amdt. No. 3576] received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5105. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30941; Amdt. No. 3575] received March 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5106. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Helicopter Air Ambulance, Commercial Helicopter, and Part 91 Helicopter Operations [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0982; Amdt. Nos. 91-330; 120-2; 135-129] (RIN: 2120-AJ53) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5107. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by Eurocopter France) (Airbus Helicopters) [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0770; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-057-AD; Amendment 39-17771; AD 2014-04-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5108. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0090; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-003-AD; Amendment 39-17761; AD 2014-04-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 14, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5109. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V.